



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECENT ARRIVAL TO V CORPS 130TH ENGINEER BRIGADE BRINGS AWARD-WINNING COACHING TO HANAU KIDS

By Dennis Johnson

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KAN'AN, Iraq -- Boys and girls are dribbling and shooting all over Hanau as the Child and Youth Services basketball season has begun lively competition.

One of CYS's most experienced coaches is 1st Sgt. Douglas Padgett who signed into V Corps' 130th Engineer Brigade in Hanau last June following a tour at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. At Leonard Wood the first sergeant volunteered as the coach of the Youth Services sports program fourth-grade basketball team and was named a coach of the year for the 2003-2004 season by the National Basketball Association and Women's National Basketball Association.



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1st Sgt. Douglas Padgett of V Corps' 130th Engineer Brigade Padgett runs drills with his bantam league team before the first game of the 2005 season at the Fliegerhorst Kaserne gym in Hanau, Germany January 8. Padgett recently arrived in Germany from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he was named as a coach of the year for the 2003-2004 season by the National Basketball Association and Women's National Basketball Association.

The Junior NBA / Junior WNBA Coach of the Year program recognizes member coaches who stand out on the court and off. Coaches are nominated by league

directors around the U.S. Padgett won in the league sponsored by the Chicago Bulls NBA team.

"Of the thousands of worthy candidates, Padgett stands out for his passion, commitment and excellence in representing the goals of the Junior NBA," said Kathy Behrens, vice president of NBA community relations. "Padgett has instilled values in his players that will take them far beyond the basketball court."

Padgett is now the 130th's operations sergeant major at Pioneer Kaserne here. Here he is coaching one of the five CYS Sports bantam league basketball teams. His team, the Golden Warriors, is composed of 10 – 12-year-olds -- seven boys and three girls who will play a season of seven games leading up to a Base Support Battalion-level tournament scheduled for February 26-27. The BSB champions will go on to compete at the Area Support Group level competition, scheduled for March 5-6 at Cardwell Gym here.

The team gathered in the entrance of Fliegerhorst Kaserne gym before their first game January 8 to run through a few last-minute drills before hitting the court. Padgett had the team practice a few advanced pass-and-shoot drills in anticipation of faking out the opposition. It worked; Padgett's team won the game, 29 -16.

One parent, Galen Nagel, a teacher at Gelnhausen Elementary School, has observed Padgett's coaching of his 12-year-old daughter, Krista, at the team practices.

"He has high expectations for the kids -- but not unrealistic, either. He's able to work with the kids, which a lot of people who don't work with kids every day may not know how to do. They're not adults," said Nagel.

"I think it's unusual for a person new to the community to get so involved right away," added Nagel. "He gives at least three-and-a-half to four hours a week at practices, plus three hours for a game ... and I know there are a lot of demands on a Soldier's time."

Padgett says he enjoys working with the children, and may turn his coaching experience into a profession after the Army.

"It all started out as a way to coach my daughters in basketball. Now I just enjoy working with the young kids," said Padgett. "I think sports give kids a good lesson in teamwork and discipline in life. One of my personal goals is to coach in the education system once I retire from the Army."

414th BSB CYS Sports Director Juan Herrera says he already likes what he sees of the first sergeant's coaching style.

"Sgt. Padgett is a new addition to our coaching staff. He's good with the kids; very fundamental. At this level it's important to teach the fundamentals: defense, offense, handling the ball and player positioning on court," said Herrera.

"Padgett works with the kids twice a week, dedicating extra time to insure the skills of his players are developed."

